

## Events of the Period

43	Romans conquer Britain
407	Romans finally left Britain
410 -520	Saxons began to settle in Britain
563	Christian missionary Columba visits Iona
597	Christian missionary Augustine visits Britain
600	Anglo Saxons established four powerful kingdoms – Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia & Wessex
681	Whole of England converted to Christianity
700 – 750	<i>Beowulf</i> written
731	Monk Bede writes <i>Ecclestial History of the English People</i>
757 – 796	Offa King of Mercia
780	Offa's Dyke built between Mercia & Wales
792	Vikings raid Lindisfarne
867	Vikings (Danes) conquer York & Northumbria
871	Danes invade East Anglia & Wessex
954	England becomes one kingdom under the Danes
1066	William the Conqueror leads Norman invasion of England

### How did the Anglo Saxons Live?

The status of Anglo Saxon man depended on the amount of land he owned and the social hierarchy placed Royalty at the top, with thanes (nobles) below, churls (freemen) and finally slaves. The family, which included all blood relatives was very important and known as 'kinship'.

Most Anglo Saxons were farm workers or 'ceorls'. They were keen to discover green fertile land to cultivate and grew crops such as barley, rye, wheat, oats, peas, beans & lentils. Extra food was grown and sold to buy luxury goods such as jewellery and glass. Flax was grown for making linen; woad and madder were used for dying. Animals such as cows, pigs goats and sheep were reared to provide meat, milk and wool and oxen were used for ploughing and pulling heavy carts and timber. Their diet was supplemented by the wild animals they hunted and fish they caught. Horn could be used for drinking vessels, tools and weapons.

### The Language

The Saxons gave their names to our days of the week - Sunday and Monday were named after the sun and the moon. Saturday was named after the Roman god Saturn.

They also gave names to places where they settled:-

Den, dene	=	valley
Ford	=	shallow river crossing
Ham	=	settlement
Ing	=	the people of
Ton	=	farm or village

And to their work:

Spinster	=	spinner
Webster	=	weaver
Baxter	=	baker
Brewster	=	brewer

### Religion

The earliest Saxons were pagans who worshipped a number of gods.

Woden	God of wisdom
Tiw	God of war
Thunor	God of thunder
Frig	Goddess of fertility.



### Children

Were taught skills by the family.

Boys learnt to farm and fight!

Girls were taught baking, spinning, embroidery and weaving!

# Costume Information Sheet

## Anglo Saxons and Vikings

Date: 917

### Where are you going?

You are coming to the remotest part of the Tatton estate in an area near the Old Hall. We know that there was once an Anglo Saxon farming community here because archaeologists have found evidence of several buildings including an Anglo Saxon Longhouse. The original buildings rotted away a long time ago, but with your help, we hope eventually to reconstruct the community which once lived here. The name TATTON comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'TATA'S TUN' meaning Tata's Farm.

### Anglo Saxons at Tatton

Egbert, an Anglo Saxon Thane, owns Tatton and his tenants farm his land under a feudal system. The tenants have a whole range of duties to perform in return for the landowner's protection. Unfortunately, Egbert has not got many tenants – recent Viking raids have frightened them off, however, he is very much in control, using the laws of Regia Anglorum and a gathering known as a Witan to his advantage. This is where the members of the community can air their grievances, but the balance of power frequently stays with the Thane. As an Anglo Saxon, this is the environment you will be living in.

### Anglo Saxons and Vikings

On the day, you may find that you are going to be a Viking or an Anglo Saxon. As a Viking you are cold and hungry from your journey. You need to build a camp and find some food and shelter, or will you steal it from someone else? If you are a resident Anglo Saxon, how are you going to survive? Are you protected from the Vikings? Will the gods help you? WAIT AND SEE.....

### What to Wear

We find that a sort of costume, even a simple one, helps you to imagine what it might have been like as an Anglo Saxon. Please bear in mind that it can get cold being outside, so try and wear something warm underneath your costume.

#### Girls

Long hair should be tied back or plaited. Wear a long plain dress or make a tunic by folding a rectangle of material in half and cutting a hole for your head. Wear a warm jumper underneath.

You could make a cloak out of an old curtain. Fasten with a brooch or sew on some strong tape or ribbon to tie it round your shoulders. Make sure your feet are warm and dry. Short boots are best, or wellies!

#### Anglo Saxons



#### Boys

Wear a sweater under a plain tunic (see girls) or cut off the collar from an old shirt of your parents ... but ask first!

Use a blanket to make a cloak and fasten it at the shoulder with a fancy brooch.

Wear a belt around your middle. You can wear dark trousers and / or make leggings by sewing tubes of cloth or cutting the feet off old long socks.